

I am deeply disappointed that this bill zeros out funding for the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). FLAP is the only federal program that supports K-12 foreign language education which is critical to our nation's economic and national security. Rather than ending this successful program we should be working to strengthen it. I will redouble my efforts to restore this critical funding next year.

This bill rejected attacks on our nation's arts and culture and provides the full \$146 million requested the National Endowment for the Humanities and the full \$146 million requested for the National Endowment for the Arts. The arts and humanities are good for our society at large and significant contributors to our economic development as well.

Another of my many disappointments with this bill is the 17 percent cut to grant programs for firefighters and other first responders. Natural and man-made disasters don't take a holiday, and neither should our support for our firefighters, EMS, and other first responders. This cut is irresponsible, and it will endanger public safety.

Unfortunately, the majority insisted on including some controversial policy riders in this appropriations bill. I am disappointed that the agreement includes a provision that would change responsibility for enforcement of the Clean Air Act on the Outer Continental Shelf from the EPA to the Department of the Interior. The EPA has been successfully enforcing the Clean Air Act for over forty years. EPA scientists understand the law and how to keep the air we breathe clean and safe. We must work to ensure that the Clean Air Act is still fully enforced on the Outer Continental Shelf.

I am also disappointed that the majority insisted on rolling back successful innovation in the lighting industry by mandating in this legislation that agencies cannot enforce energy efficient standards for light bulbs. Congress has a responsibility to maintain regulatory certainty that encourages the private sector to make needed investments in research, development, and innovation. This policy rider turns back the innovation clock in the lighting industry.

Regrettably, the conference report contains \$35 million for the United Nations Population Fund rather than the \$65 million requested. Yet, I am pleased that it rejects the House Majority's attempt to cut all funding for the UNFPA which provides crucial reproductive health care, not abortion, to the world's poorest women. The conference report extends a policy rider on the District of Columbia, which prevents the District to spend its local money on women's health care services. Further, the conference report included \$5 million for failed "abstinence-only" programs, which have been shown to have no long-term positive effects.

This is not a perfect bill, but it prevents a looming government shutdown. Further, it provides funding increases for a number of critical programs and rejects many of the dangerous cuts contained in the funding bills that the House previously approved. I support passage of this bill despite its pessimistic view of what America could achieve through more ambitious funding of the programs covered under the bill.

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding H.R. 3672, Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012:

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012, H.R. 3672
(Amounts in thousands)

	This Bill
DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT	
TITLE I—DISASTER RELIEF	
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY	
Federal Emergency Management Agency	
Disaster Relief Fund (disaster relief category)	6,400,000
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL	
Corps of Engineers—Civil	
Mississippi River and Tributaries (disaster relief category) ..	802,000
Operation and Maintenance (disaster relief category)	534,000
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (disaster relief category)	388,000
Total, Corps of Engineers—Civil	1,724,000
Total, title I	8,124,000
TITLE II—COMBATING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE	
Social Security Administration	
Limitation on Administrative Expenses	483,484
GRAND TOTAL	8,607,484
(Disaster relief category)	(8,124,000)

RECOGNIZING KEVIN HARRIGER
FOR BEING APPOINTED EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
PROGRAMS AND TRADE
LIAISON AT UNITED STATES
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kevin Harriger, a native of southwestern Pennsylvania, for being named Executive Director for agriculture inspection programs at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), Office of Field Operations.

In his new capacity, he is responsible for overseeing USCBP's efforts to protect America's agricultural resources against the threats posed by domestic and foreign plant pests and diseases. Mr. Harriger is uniquely qualified to take on this role, as ensuring the safety of naturally-cultivated consumer products has been the principal cause of his career.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Harriger was the Deputy Executive Director for CBP's office of Agriculture Operational Oversight. As such, he was responsible for ensuring that USCP's agricultural inspection policies were being implemented smoothly and consistently. The skillfulness with which he executed the duties of this job are in large part a product of the experience he gained while working for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), both as a Regional Director in Raleigh and as a Special Assistant to the

Deputy Administrator for APHIS—PPQ in Conyers, Ga.

While with APHIS, he honed his knowledge of both agricultural policy and plant pathology. His expertise in both of these areas is a testament to his intelligence and dedication to his craft. While I am deeply impressed by his ability to understand and analyze esoteric scientific subjects and public policy, I am even more impressed by the passion he has shown for using this ability to promote the greater good. All of us should use our talents for such selfless purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Kevin Harriger on this appointment and thank him for his many years of public service.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARSHAND
CRISLER FOR HIS DEDICATION
AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY
AND COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Marshand Crisler. A lifetime Jackson resident, Mr. Crisler was born in Greenville, Mississippi in 1968 to Johnny and Rosia Crisler. Mr. Crisler attended elementary and junior high school in Utica, Mississippi, before transferring to the Jackson Public Schools District and graduating from Provine High School. He pursued higher education at Hinds Community College where he received his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Crisler enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where he served in the Persian Gulf War. In 1992, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marines and joined the Hinds County Sheriffs Department as a narcotics investigator and held several assignments as a contract agent with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the FBI and DEA. In 1993, he received the distinguished meritorious award of valor for acts of courage and being shot in the line of duty.

Mr. Crisler enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard where he served as Headquarters Detachment Commander for the 112th Military Police Battalion and later in Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded several war time commendations, including the "Army Commendation Medal." He later transferred to the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Security Forces Squadron where he was promoted to the rank of Major and served as Deputy Director of Security Forces. Mr. Crisler recently retired as a Major after 21 years in the U.S. Armed Forces.

While working for the Sheriffs Department, Mr. Crisler graduated from Jackson State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Corrective Services. In January of 1999, he accepted the position of Police Chief of the Utica Police Department, and became the first African American to serve in this capacity. In the summer of 1999 he returned to the Hinds County Sheriffs Department, where he remained for 17 years.

In 2001, Mr. Crisler was elected to the Jackson City Council becoming the first African American to hold the position of Ward 6 Councilman. He served three terms as President of